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direction assumed by Mr. Davies. The truth is that American cities have done comparatively little in the way of management of industries, but have usually left such matters to private corporations, and only too frequently with most scandalous results. Mr. John Burns, M. P., who took part in the discussion of Mr. Davies' paper, showed a better understanding of American conditions, when he said the maladministration of American cities was due in an important degree to the influence of private enterprise in search of special privileges for the management of these public service industries.

Mr. Davies presents charts showing the increase of rates and debt for the past twenty years. The debt increase for cities is striking, and much more than half is for what Mr. Davies terms trading purposes. The charts are deficient, however, in that they do not show what assets are possessed by the cities as an offset to this indebtedness. In other words, the charts fail to throw light on the real question at issue, which is, have the expenditures which this debt represents been profitable ones, and is the public warranted in making more of the same kind?

The paper of Mr. Davies, together with the discussion thereof, is interesting but not highly profitable, unless, as was suggested, it should lead to a parliamentary inquiry covering the entire subject. The need for literature upon the subject of municipalization is not for statements of *a priori* arguments for one side or the other, but for light upon the practical workings and possibilities of public as opposed to private management of these industries under monopoly conditions. The field is one calling for careful research and examination of conditions as they exist, and the presentation of the results of investigation in such manner as to warrant the drawing of inferences applicable to various sets of conditions.

GEORGE CUSHING SIKES.

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*Economic Aspects of the Liquor Problem.* By JOHN KOREN. An investigation made for the Committee of Fifty under the direction of HENRY W. FARNAM, secretary of the Economic Sub-committee. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1899. 12mo. pp. x + 240 + 87.

THIS is the second volume in the series of official publications of the Committee of Fifty, the first having appeared in 1897, bearing the title, *The Liquor Problem in its Legislative Aspects*; while other volumes on other aspects of the problem are promised. The object

of the Committee of Fifty in making these investigations is to secure and to discuss impartially a body of facts relating to the liquor problem "which will serve as a basis for intelligent public and private action" (p. 7). In doing this work the committee has taken a most important step toward a correct understanding of what the problem really is. Much that has been said in years past on the subject of intemperance in this country has been idle, and much of the energy spent has been fruitless, because the situation was not understood. The first essential step in any real reform is made by ascertaining what the facts and conditions are which must be dealt with.

The present volume, while it deals with the economic aspects of the liquor problem, does not attempt to discuss every phase of the problem which might be classed under that head. The *Twelfth Annual Report of the Federal Department of Labor* (1897), which also bears the title, *Economic Aspects of the Liquor Problem*, discusses fully the important subjects of the production and consumption of liquor, together with that of the revenues derived from the traffic. The Economic Sub-committee of the Committee of Fifty, planning with the Department of Labor so that the two investigations might supplement each other, discusses in the present volume the *effect* of the consumption of liquor as related to poverty, pauperism, and crime.

A discussion of these phases of the problem constitutes the chief chapters of the book and represents a great amount of careful work and wide research, the sources of information embracing the records of thirty-three charity organization societies, eleven children's aid societies, sixty almshouses, and seventeen prisons and reformatories scattered throughout twelve states. In respect to poverty, it was found that about 25 per cent. of the cases could be traced directly or indirectly to the use of liquor. Of the cases of poverty found in the almshouses the use of liquor was found to be responsible for some 37 per cent. ; while in the cases of the destitution of children not less than 45 per cent. was found to be due to the liquor habit, either of parents, guardians, or others (pp. 21, 22). These percentages are considerably lower than has heretofore been generally supposed ; and what is true in respect to poverty and pauperism is also true of the relation of liquor to crime. While 50 per cent. of the crimes committed by the 13,402 convicts whose cases were examined were due to intemperance, intemperance was a first cause in only 31 per cent. of the cases, and the sole cause in only 16 per cent. of the cases studied (p. 30).

Following the general discussion as indicated above is a chapter on the effects of liquor among the Negroes, another on the effects among the North American Indians, and a closing chapter on the social aspects of the saloon. The last chapter might at first seem out of place in a volume devoted to the economic aspects of the subject ; and yet there is a very close connection between the two, the object in the present case being to describe the saloon as a distributing agency between the producer and the consumer of alcoholic beverages, and to point out some of the attractions which the saloon-keeper holds out to his customers. The fact is recognized that the saloon supplies, besides drinks, many social wants which are not at present provided for in any other way ; but in praising these negative virtues the fact is almost lost sight of for the moment that these features are only attractions ; that the paramount object of the saloon-keeper is to sell intoxicating beverages, and that his efforts are not in the direction of a moderate use of liquors, but in the direction of an excessive use of them, in order that he may increase his sales and thereby his profits.

The book is of great value. The spirit which pervades it is scientific and fair, and where opinion is expressed, it is always conservative. It is, in the opinion of the present writer, by far the best contribution to a scientific understanding of the subjects which it discusses that has yet been published, and is a volume which should be carefully read by everyone desiring to study intelligently the liquor problem.

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*Economics and Industrial History for Secondary Schools.* By HENRY W. THURSTON. Chicago: Scott, Foresman & Co., 1899. 12mo. pp. 300.

THE adaptation of any study for school use, especially for elementary or secondary schools, must be a matter of slow growth. For a quarter of a century we have been trying to give young people the elements of economics, first in the colleges, then in the secondary schools and now even in the elementary schools. The results have been far from satisfactory, and one reason for it has been that the subject-matter has not been cast in the proper form for the young beginner ; in other words, suitable text-books have not existed. The books were written either by school teachers who knew little economics or by university economists